
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Rm. 103
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Date: May 17, 2012
Time: 3:30 p.m.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka... The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the opening of the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fishery beginning **Monday, May 21, 2012.**

District 8: will be open from **8:00 a.m., Monday, May 21, through 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 22,** with the following restrictions:

Stikine River: waters off the Stikine River will be closed north and west of a line from Babbler Point to Hour Point along the shore of Wrangell Island to Point Highfield to the southern end of Liesnoi Island to the southern end of Greys Island to the small island near the eastern entrance of Blind Slough to the nearest point of Mitkof Island, and south and east of a line from the prominent point of Mitkof Island nearest Coney Island to the northern end of Coney Island to a point 500 yards north of Jap Creek on the mainland shore;

Beacon Point/Point Frederick Area: waters of Frederick Sound will be closed west of a line from the District 10 boundary one nautical mile off the Kupreanof Island shoreline to Sukoi Island Light to Point Frederick;

Bear Creek (Eastern Mitkof Island): waters of Frederick Sound will be closed south of 56°42.91' N. lat., and west of 132°41.38' W. long;

Wrangell Harbor Area: waters off the Stikine River will be closed within one-quarter mile of the shoreline on the western side of Wrangell Island north of the latitude of Cemetery Point.

Section 11-B:

Stephens Passage: **will be closed.**

Taku Inlet: **will be closed.**

The initial inseason terminal run estimate of Taku River king salmon is approximately 14,100 fish. This is well below the preseason forecast. A terminal run of this size results in no U.S. allowable directed harvest and there will be no directed Taku king salmon gillnet opening in District 11. The department will continue to evaluate in river stock assessment information as it becomes available.

Gillnet Gear Restrictions: the gear allowed will be the standard length and depth; from the first Monday in May through the second Saturday in June, the minimum mesh size is 7 inches.

Drift gillnet fishermen are asked to notify management biologists, who will be monitoring the fishery, of any incidences of steelhead catch. Gillnetters are required to record any steelhead retained on fish tickets.

The king salmon harvest share allocation, as determined by the Pacific Salmon Commission, is based only on large (over 28 inches) king salmon in both Districts 8 and 11. The department is discontinuing the use of species code 411 beginning in 2012 to account for small king salmon and instead will rely on ADF&G port sampling programs for that purpose. For drift gillnet (as well as troll and set net) fisheries, only species code 410 should be used to report king salmon of all sizes.

Directed king salmon troll fisheries will also occur in District 8. Information for troll fisheries will be announced in separate new releases.

The department reminds fishermen that in accordance with 5 AAC 39.130 (c) (10), all fish harvested must be documented on fish tickets, including those retained for personal use. If a fish is retained for personal use and no fish are sold, a fish ticket must still be filled out and submitted to document the personal use harvest.

Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Harvest Estimates								
Statistical Week 20 (May 13 - May 19)								
Preliminary Estimates Compiled May 17, 2012								
NUMBER OF SALMON								
District	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Boats	Days Open
District 8	185	0	0	0	0	0	25	1
Section 11-B	150	0	0	0	0	0	37	1
Total	335	0	0	0	0	0		
FISH PER BOAT FOR THE PERIOD								
District	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total		
District 8	7	0	0	0	0	7		
Section 11-B	4	0	0	0	0	4		
Anita Bay THA: No report harvested								

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1S1112.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADFG	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	
Gillnet Hotline	225-6870	772-3700			465-8905	766-2830		